ELIMINATING OVERDUE FEES

Removing Barriers to Library Access
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Oct 1 2020
Most items have a 3-week checkout with 6 renewals
Miss any renewal date and you can be fined $0.10/day until you renew
Don’t return an item and we will bill you for the amount we paid for it

We are only planning to stop issuing overdue fines
We will still bill for items not returned
Overdues are a **TINY** budget item

**Receipts 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Library Fund</td>
<td>$8,761,283</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Tax</td>
<td>$8,912,695</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$366,576</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental, Rental, Misc.</td>
<td>$1,249,902</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We earn more on interest than we do on fines, and that’s before you take out replacement costs!
There can be no late fees with ebooks – as their use grows this revenue will continue to shrink.

Now is the time to eliminate this from our budget and help the community.
Fining Patrons Costs the Library

- Mail, Postage, and Staff time to manage printed fine notices
- Staff time to manage email fine notices
- Staff time to answer questions about fine forgiveness
- And most importantly . . .

- People who don’t become patrons or stop being patrons because they fear getting fines they can’t afford to pay.
Very few people owe the Library money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Patrons</th>
<th>58,011</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who check out Physical Materials</td>
<td>47,647</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And owe Money</td>
<td>13,953</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And owe more than $25</td>
<td>3,403</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And are in Collections</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OVERDUE FINES AREN’T NECESSARY AND IMPACT THOSE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD TO PAY

The most frequent question we were asked while closed: “When can I return my books?”
Improving Equity

“Increasingly, research shows that while people are equal in returning books after the due date, they are not equal in their ability to pay overdue fees and thus lose access to the library. This disproportionately harms people of color and people from lower-income households. We believe this policy change is essential to build a more equitable society.”


272 public libraries in North America have eliminated overdue fines
Eliminating Overdues will:

1. Encourage people who are worried about fines to use the library.
2. Eliminate a nuisance for people who were going to bring their materials back anyway.
3. Demonstrate that we are doing what we can to help people in tough economic times.
People are getting in the habit of not using the library...

...and that's bad for business

Now is the time to eliminate overdue fines and bring people back to PLYMC!
Welcome Back!

MAKE IT EASY

MAKE IT FLEXIBLE

LIMIT LIABILITY
Make It Easy
Eliminate Overdue Fines
Simplify Library Card Types

Make It Flexible
Implement Autorenew
Have a “Clean Slate” Amnesty Campaign

Limit Liability
Reduce # of items out at one time
Reduce total time an item can be kept out
Clean Slate Month

During December 2020, speak with a staff member and we will:

• waive all existing fees
• take back long-overdue items
• Issue a replacement card

Start 2021 with a Clean Slate!